

Remarks

In the Action, the Examiner required a restriction for:

- Group I. Claims 1-10, drawn to an integrated upholstery piece of a backrest and deck subassembly, classified in class 297, subclass 218.1;
- Group II. Claims 11-15, drawn to the framework of a backrest and deck subassembly, classified in class 297, subclass 452.63;
- Group III. Claims 16-21, drawn to a sofa, classified in class 297, subclass 440.23;
- Group IV. Claims 22-24, drawn to an armrest, classified in class 297, subclass 440.11;
- Group V. Claims 25-33, drawn to a method of constructing a sofa, classified in class 297, subclass 440.1.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects the following named claims:

- Group I. Claims 1-10, drawn to an integrated upholstery piece of a backrest and deck subassembly.

Applicants provisionally make this election **with traverse** with respect to the claims of Group II. More specifically, Applicants note that the claim elements of Claim 11, namely (a) a frame with deck and backrest sections, wherein the top portion of the deck section has front and rear laterally-extending slots, (b) a deck fabric sheet, and (c) a pair of slats attached to the deck fabric sheet that are received in the slots of the deck section top portion, are recited cumulatively in Claims 8, 9 and 10. As such, the search and examination for these elements will be carried out in the examination of elected Claims 1-10. As such, Applicants believe that it should not be a serious burden on the examiner to examine Claims 11-15 also. MPEP 803.

Applicants make the election of the claims of Group I **without traverse** with respect to the claims of Groups III, IV and V. These claims have been withdrawn above.

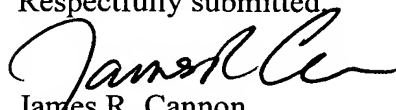
Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for substantive examination, which action is requested.

If any extension of time for the accompanying response or submission is required, Applicant requests that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is hereby

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Filed: December 2, 2003
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authorized to charge any additional fee, which may be required, or credit any refund, to our
Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully submitted

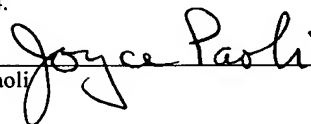


James R. Cannon
Registration No. 35,839

Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
P. O. Box 37428
Raleigh, North Carolina 27627
Telephone: (919) 854-1400
Facsimile: (919) 854-1401
Customer Number 20792

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 10, 2004.


Joyce Paoli